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BOOK REVIEWS

ALL BOOKS LISTED HERE MAY BE OBTAINED, POSTAGE PREPAID, UPON APPLICATION TO THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY, COLORADO BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Militarism. By *Karl Liebknecht*. Translator anonymous. B. W. Huebsch, New York City. (1906) : English edition, 1917. 178 p. \$1.00.

Although Karl Liebknecht was mainly interested in the menace of Prussian militarism to the "enemy within," the German people themselves, and although he did not here and has not extensively elsewhere considered its menace as we see it today, as a threat against peace and justice throughout the world, it is true that this address, published first in 1906 and confiscated by the German Government in 1907, has had its share in the work of bringing to the surface the evils of Prussianism, where mankind may judge them and comprehend their malevolence. If there be any still who do not know the all-encompassing means by which whole peoples were mesmerized, brutalized, terrorized into accepting the Prussian yoke of militarism, this book will enlighten them. To others, who fear the taint of similar doctrines creeping into the veins of government here and elsewhere outside of Kaiserdom, this painstaking and detailed arraignment of the true enemy will be informing and to a great extent reassuring. Arms and the man do not alone make militarism as Germany has known it. Even capital and its interests added to these, do not re-create here or elsewhere the Thing that exists in the heart of Europe. But add to these the ideal, if such it may be called, of power as composed of greed, cruelty, fear, ignorance and blind obedience, and that which Liebknecht here describes becomes apparent. If it be no blacker than the colors in which he paints it, it is worthy to be known of every man for what it is, that the world may be rid of it.

The Rebirth of Russia. By *Isaac F. Marcosson*. John Lane Company, New York. 208 p. 1917. \$1.25.

The first thought in the reader's mind when he lays down this brief but vivid history of the Russian revolution is that all this could not possibly have happened. It was impossible that the people should not have risen to Protopopoff's baiting in just the angry futile rebellion that he hoped for. It was impossible that they should patiently endure until that moment when the sympathy of the Cossacks in Petrograd gave them their first hope in the revolution. It was impossible that the Czar should not have had an inkling of the true meaning of what was transpiring and should not have acted in time to preserve his Empire. It was impossible, once the revolt was on, that the vast crowds of idle, newly freed and excited Russians in the streets of Petrograd should not be fired by some spark to deeds of violence and horror, which would have vitiated forever the strength of the republic. Milyoukoff, Lvoff, Rodzianko, Gutchkoff were impossible men. Kerensky—but even the meager and distorted cable dispatches already apprised us of those early achievements of his in sufficient measure to render him an impossible hero. If there is any one thing that can explain all, make all seem possible, it can be no less than a belief that the "dark forces" of Russian autocracy had, after the nature of all dark forces that work unchecked, evolved for themselves a Nemesis so complete that no human fallibility could prevent or impair it. Mr. Marcosson's rapid sketch of those few weeks last March and April in Petrograd inspire and enforce this conception.

How to Live at the Front. By *Second Lieut. Hector McQuarrie*, Royal Field Artillery. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia. 269 p. 1917. \$1.25.

That the title of this book is not so humorous as it sounds, the author explains in his introduction. Men at the front are only a small proportion of their time in actual conflict with the foe, and for the balance of their time, whether spent in front or reserve trenches, billets or on leave, there are things they need to know which, as well as hints for the fighting itself, will determine how well and how long they will live. The first great commandment of this book—a book that seems quite as important and instructive for the stay-

at-home as for the conscript—is that carelessness on one man's part almost inevitably means death, disaster or discomfort to others. Heroism is at a discount—the sort that features in the press dispatches. The true hero is the man who never shirks, never hogs, never fails to think of others' safety and well-being as much as of his own. Or, as the author puts it: "The ideal soldier is the chap who each day does his very best to help things along, avoids getting himself disliked by his N. C. O.'s and officers; avoids being taken up to office as much as possible, and also, unless he is particularly skillful, curbs himself from making excuses when caught." This is a first-rate book for every American. Life is life anywhere, and "How to Live at the Front," with only a few minor changes of detail, is "How to Live at Home." Dependability, respect for just authority, consideration for the other fellow—in discovering how necessary these are for the soldier of death, we may understand better than before how equally necessary they are for the soldier of living, who must go over the top in his own home town. The author's style is free and easy, and this may explain what otherwise would seem to be an indication that living at the front is very complicated indeed for some people, as when he writes: "Some N. C. O.'s get respect by being brutal. They are fools. They die often." How Nathan Hale would envy them!

All In It. By *Ian Hay (Beith)*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York. 238 p. 1917. \$1.50.

Here are the further adventures, and the last that shall be recorded, we are told, of the immortals of "K-1," that fraction of the "First Hundred Thousand" that crossed the Channel in May, 1915, and were in most of the "shows" up to the Battle of Loos, where this second chronicle starts. They are stirring, living, humorous. To place ourselves in sympathy with the men at the front, the men who, as they come back, must work side by side with us in building up the civilization of the Twentieth Century, some would have us study the horror of this war, specialize in its misery, train our hearts to bleed at each new story of the millions of stories of suffering and heartache. This is the gospel of Harold Begbie, recently quoted in *The Literary Digest* from the London *Daily Chronicle*. It is not the gospel of Ian Hay. Whether it is the dramatic account of the *finis* of "Angus M'Lachlan," who "did in" two Emma Gees single-handed, or firing-line gossip culminating in the dour threat of the kiltie: "Has it ever occurred to you, my mannie, what would happen tae the English—if Scotland was tae make a separate peace?"—there is the glint of humor running through it all, humor that can tighten its belt on famine, light its pipe in a shell-crater during bombardment, or give a hearty word to the man who will not wait the stretcher-bearers. It is the touch of human nature that gives us kinship with those different from ourselves, who have suffered as we have not. It is that bright-minted currency of speech that tells most truly the things that lie heavy or deep in the human heart. "All In It" is good reading.

International Government. By *L. S. Woolf*. Introduced by *Bernard Shaw*. Brentanos, New York. 412 p. 1916. \$2.00.

In preparing these two reports for the Fabian Research Department, Mr. Woolf has rendered a genuine service to international thinking. The first report contains six chapters on an international authority, and the prevention of war; the second, seven chapters on international government. The first part deals with the causes of war, international law, treaties, conferences, judicial tribunal, and sanctions; the second part treats of international organs. The book may be described as an up-to-date development of the principles of the American Peace Society plus an over-emphasis upon physical force as a factor in the establishment of a permanent world peace. Some thirty pages are given over to suggested articles for adoption by an international congress after the termination of the present war.